



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THE GOODALL-WITCHER HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

CLIFTON, TEXAS, April 17, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced that the Goodall-Witcher Healthcare Foundation was selected to receive a \$6,500,000 loan through the agency's Community Facilities Loan Program. The effort is part of USDA Rural Development's mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

USDA Rural Development funds will be used for the construction of a new physician's clinic and hospital expansion. The Hospital raised more than \$1,500,000 and the Health Resources and Services Administration has committed \$392,826 toward the project. The proposed project will expand their current facility to alleviate square footage deficiencies in several departments. The new construction will encompass approximately 30,000 square feet. Interior renovation will include approximately 13,000 square feet with a focus on the emergency and radiology departments. A major component of the new construction is a 12-physician clinic of 21,000 square feet. The remaining 9,000 square feet will contain the physical therapy, lab and data processing departments.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility direct and guaranteed loans and over \$900,000 in grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development's Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Hillsboro Local Office at (254) 582-7328, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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